

Message Text

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71

ACTION AGR-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 CIEP-02 STR-04

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R 211428Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7467

UNCLAS BELGRADE 4805

EO 11652 NA

TAGS : ETRD EDAP

SUBJ: YUGOSLAV IMPORT REQUIREMENTS

REF: (A) STATE 172410, (B) BELGRADE 4622

1. REF (B) PREPATED WHILE AGATT WAS ON OFFICIAL TRAVEL IN ROMANIA. HIS EVALUATION FOLLOWS.

2. INFORMATION IN PARA 1 OF REF (B) WAS OBTAINED FROM FEDERAL SECRETARIAT FOR FOREIGN TRADE. HOWEVER, YUGOSLAV STATISTICS (OCT 75-MAY 76) SHOW OILSEED MEAL AND CAKE IMPORTS AT 153,000 TONS. MOST OF THIS IS SOYBEAN MEAL. AGATT ESTIMATES 1975/76 SOYBEAN IMPORTS AT ABOUT 220,000 TONS.

3. TRADE SOURCES PLACE MY 1976/77 SOYBEAN MEAL IMPORT REQUIREMENTS AT 200-250,000 TONS. YUGOSLAVIA REPORTEDLY IS NOW IN THE MARKET FOR 80,000 TONS OF MEAL FOR DELIVERY BEFORE JANUARY 1. BASED ON CURRENT MARKET SITUATION FOR PROTEIN MEALS, GRAIN AND LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS, AGATT ANTICIPATESTHAT YUGOSLAVIA WILL IMPORT AT LEAST 200,000 TONS OF SOYBEAN MEAL AND/OR SOYBEANS (MEAL EQUIVALENT) IN MY 1976/77. THE BREAKDOWN BETWEEN MEAL AND BEANS IS CLOUDED BY THE SCHEDULED OPENING OF A CRUSHING FACILITY AT ZADAR ON/ABOUT JANUARY 1 AND UNUSED SUNFLOWERSEED CRUSHING CAPACITY. IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT THIS PLANT WILL OPERATE AT FULL CAPACITY UNTIL SEVERAL MONTHS LATER. THUS, WE ESTIMATE ONLY ABOUT 100,000 TONS OF UNCLASSIFIED

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BEANS WILL BE CRUSHED DURING THE LAST THREE QUARTERS OF THE

MY 1976/77 AND SINCE SOME OF THE MEAL MAY BE EXPORTED, ONLY ABOUT 50,000 TONS WILL ENTER DOMESTIC MIXED FEED INDUSTRY. THEREFORE, AN ADDITIONAL 150,000 TONS OF SOYBEAN MEAL WILL HAVE TO BE IMPORTED.

4. IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT A 15 PERCENT RISE IN SOYBEAN PRICES WOULD HAVE A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON MEAL IMPORTS DUE TO STRONG DEMAND FOR LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS. HOWEVER, 30 PERCENT RISE IN PRICES COULD CAUSE SIGNIFICANT DROP IN IMPORTS. WE DO NOT THINK MEAL IMPORTS COULD DROP BELOW 150,000 TONS WITHOUT SERIOUSLY AFFECTING LIVESTOCK INDUSTRY. OF COURSE, FINAL DECISION ON LEVEL OF IMPORTS WILL DEPEND LARGELY ON SIZE OF BOTH GRAIN AND SUNFLOWERSEED CROPS AND PRICES OF GRAINS AND LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS.
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